

MARVEL

#5

HASTINGS
FLAVIANO
MENYZ

I AM GROOT

TM



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7781

MARVEL
INHUMANS
ANIMATED SERIES
ABC SEPT 29

A BODY AS STRONG AS A REDWOOD, LIMBS THAT EXTEND LIKE VINES, AND WITH THE ABILITY TO REGROW FROM A SPLINTER . . . GROOT WAS THE BIGGEST AND STRONGEST MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY. BUT NOW, HE'S STUCK AT THE SIZE OF A SAPLING. THE GALAXY CAN BE A DANGEROUS PLACE FOR A LITTLE TREE WHO DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING BUT . . .



I AM GROOT

in
"THE FORGOTTEN DOOR"
part 5

A FEW DAYS AGO, GROOT ACCIDENTALLY EJECTED FROM THE GUARDIANS' SPACESHIP IN A TINY ESCAPE POD. AS HE DRAFTED DOWN TO THE PLANET TERMINAL, A HUGE PROJECTION OF A HEADLESS SENTINEL ISSUED WARNINGS TO VISITORS. TRYING TO GET HOME, GROOT MADE FRIENDS, DODGED OVERZEALOUS HOSPITALITY ROBOTS, AND BRAVED TIME-SPACE STORMS THAT CAN AGE OR DE-AGE STUFF IT TELEPORTS FROM ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, ALL WHILE HOUNDED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR'S PREDICTIONS THAT GROOT WOULD OPEN A DOOR TO DESTRUCTION. EVENTUALLY, GROOT'S SCATTERBRAINED FRIEND BUDDY WAS CONVINCED TO PUSH GROOT INTO A STORM, WHERE GROOT SAW VISIONS FROM ACROSS TIME—MAYBE HIS OWN FUTURE?—BEFORE BEING TRANSPORTED RIGHT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR'S PALACE OF DOORS.

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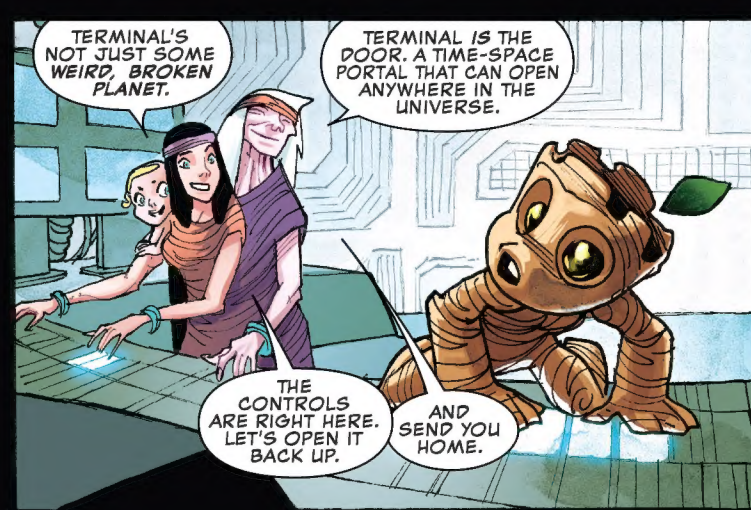
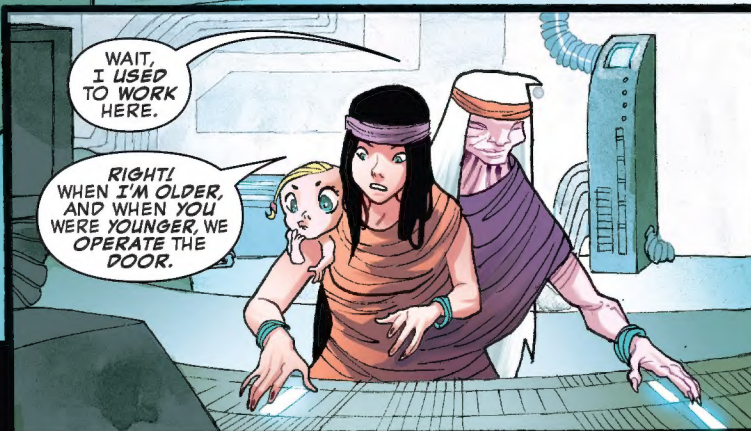
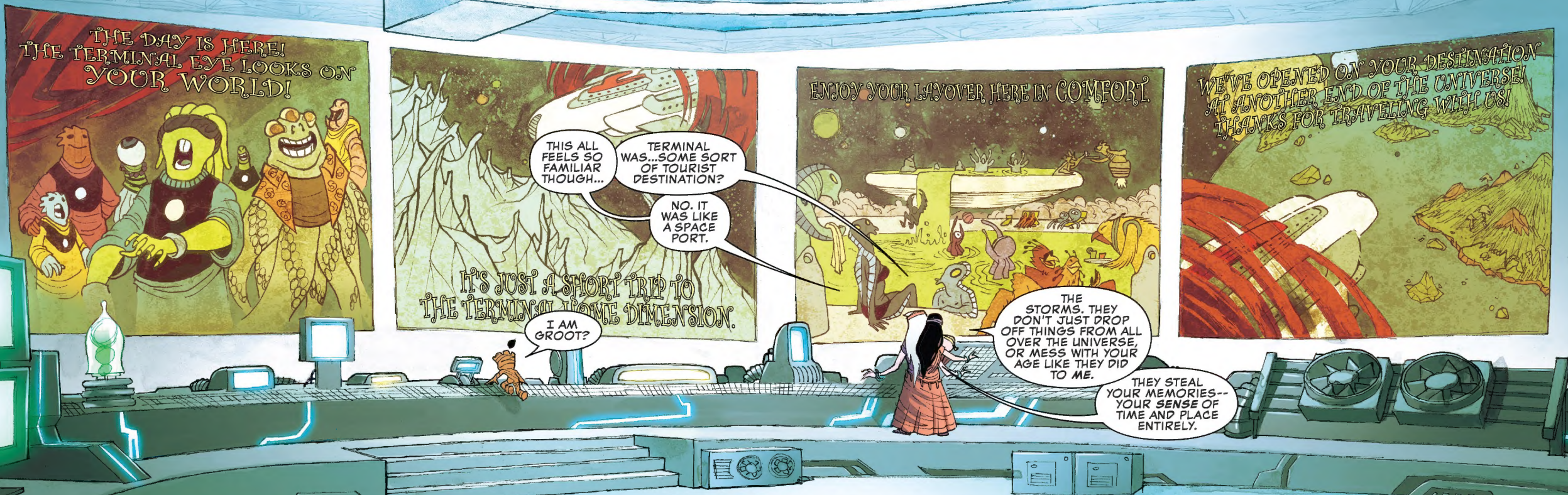
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER:
JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT:
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:
ALAN FINE

Groot created by Stan Lee, Larry Lieber & Jack Kirby





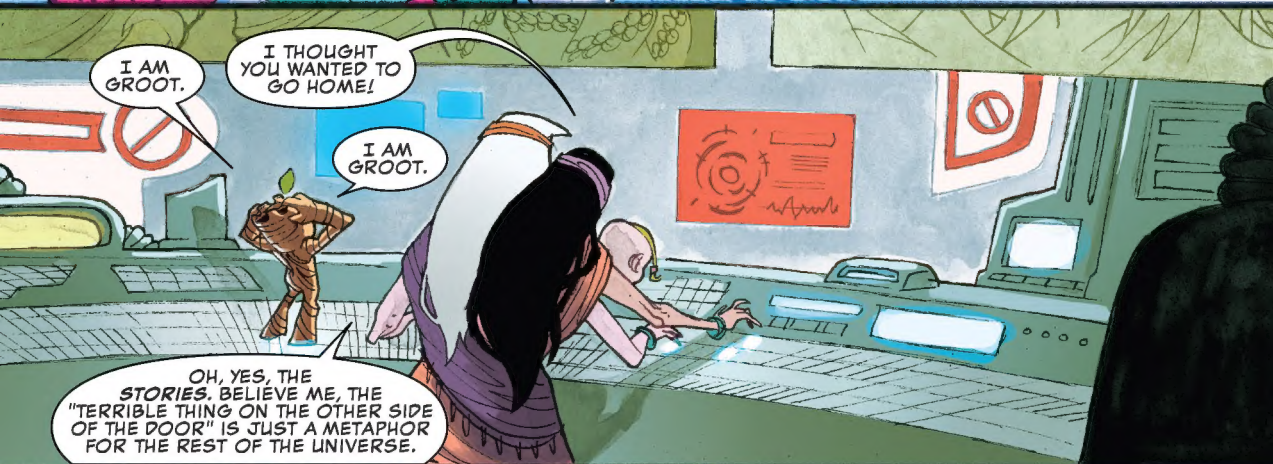


HELLO,
ADMINISTRATOR.



B-BUDDY!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
ON THE--

I AM THE CARETAKER.
AND I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING
NOW.

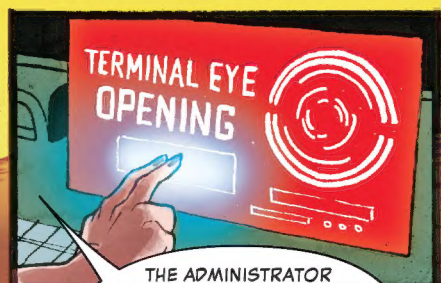


I AM
GROOT.

I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED TO
GO HOME!

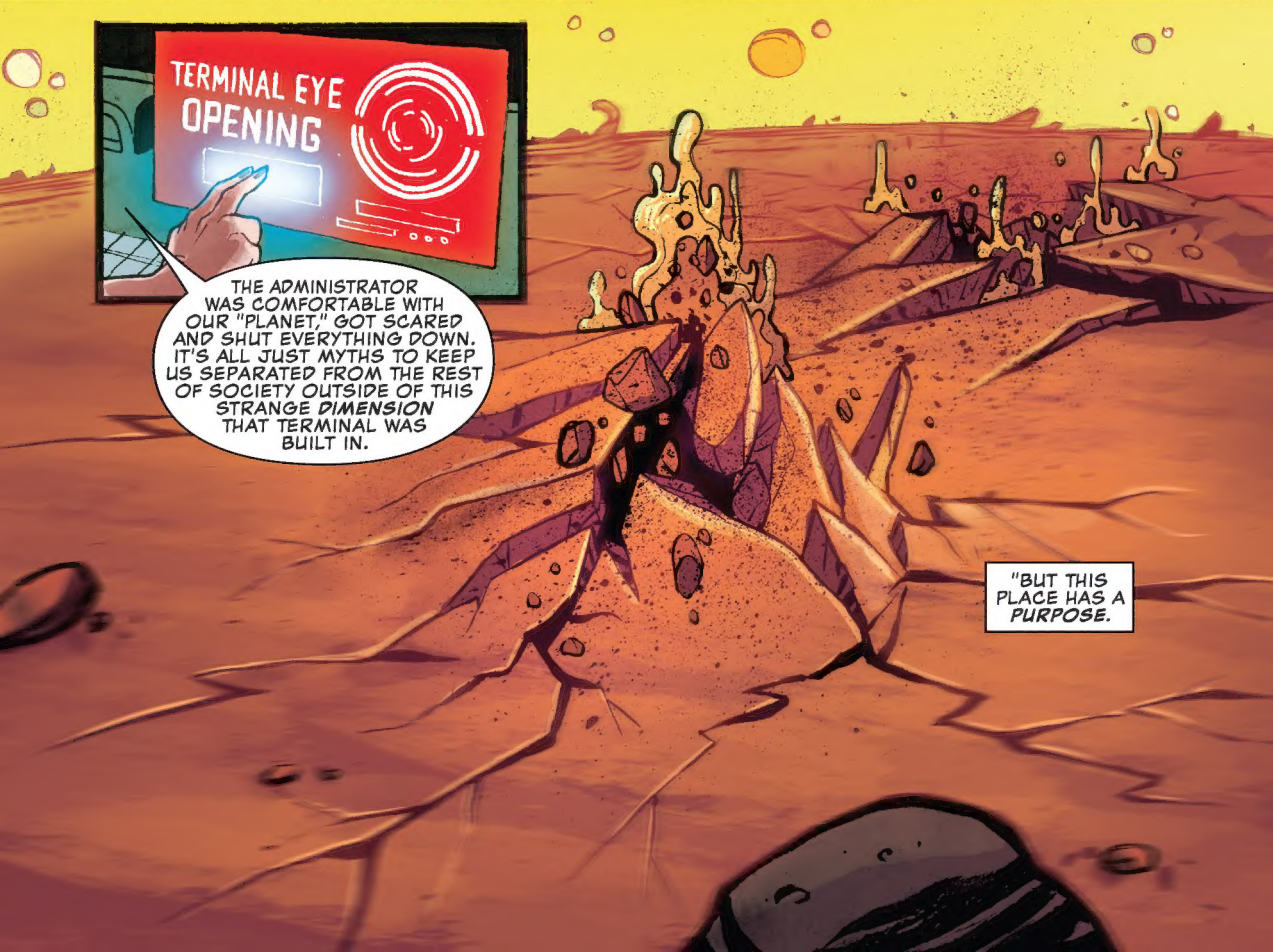
I AM
GROOT.

OH, YES, THE
STORIES. BELIEVE ME, THE
"TERRIBLE THING ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE DOOR" IS JUST A METAPHOR
FOR THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE.



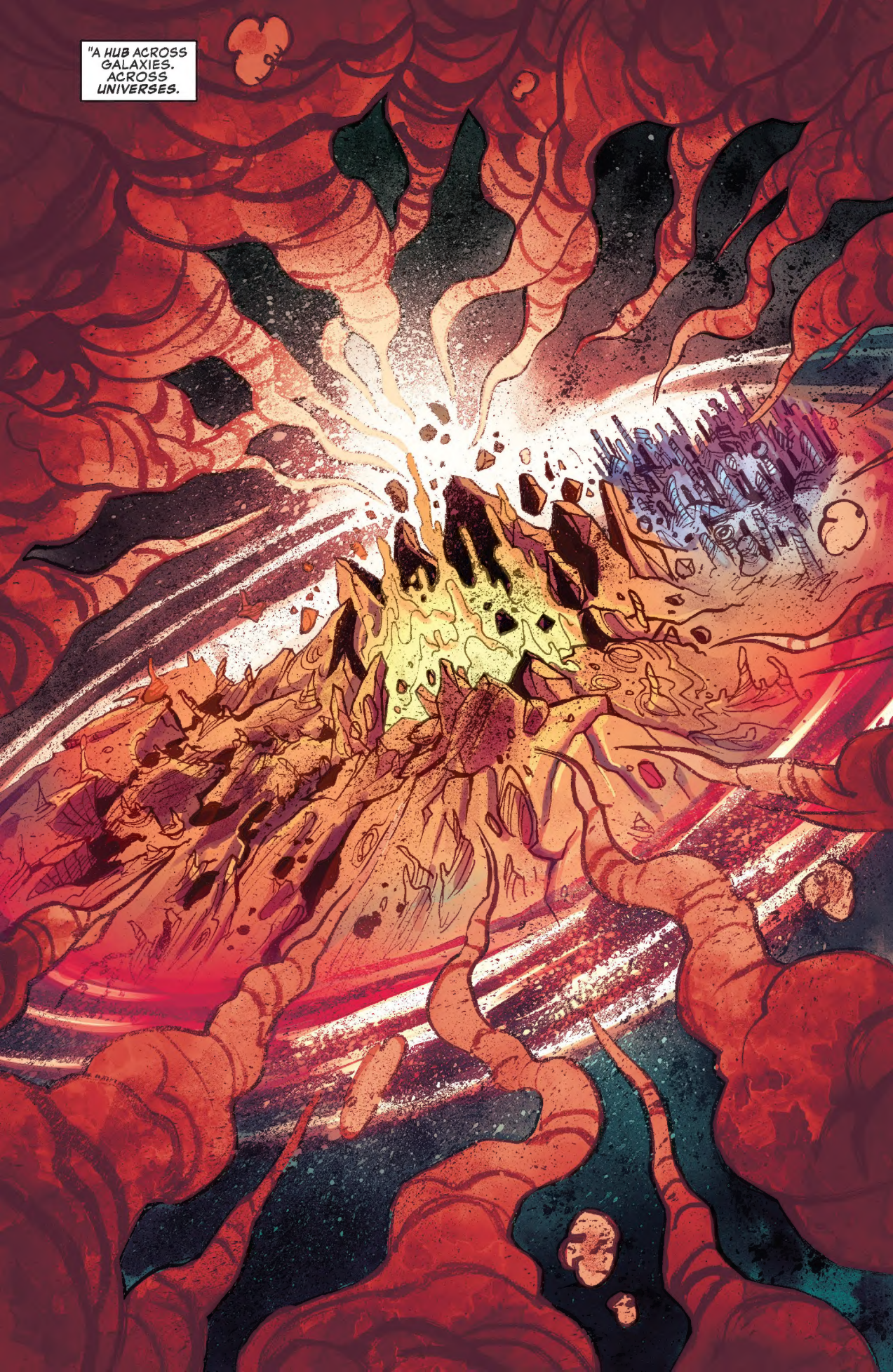
TERMINAL EYE
OPENING

THE ADMINISTRATOR
WAS COMFORTABLE WITH
OUR "PLANET" GOT SCARED
AND SHUT EVERYTHING DOWN.
IT'S ALL JUST MYTHS TO KEEP
US SEPARATED FROM THE REST
OF SOCIETY OUTSIDE OF THIS
STRANGE DIMENSION
THAT TERMINAL WAS
BUILT IN.

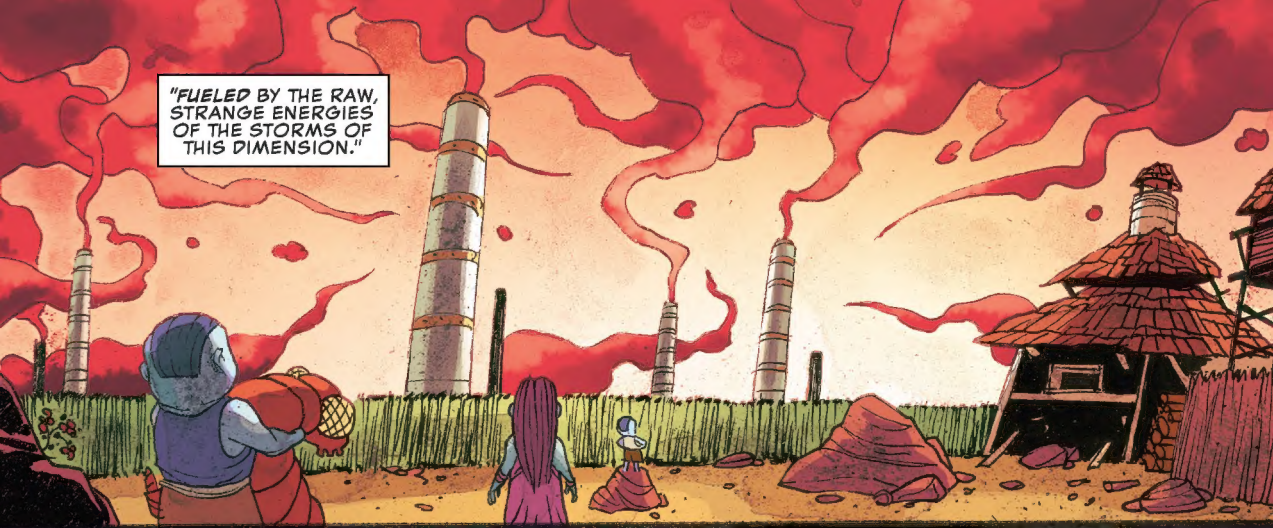


"BUT THIS
PLACE HAS A
PURPOSE.

"A HUB ACROSS
GALAXIES.
ACROSS
UNIVERSES."



"FUELED BY THE RAW, STRANGE ENERGIES OF THE STORMS OF THIS DIMENSION."



THIS FEELS FAMILIAR. HM.

I DON'T LIKE ALL THESE OOKY MEMORIES POPPING UP SINCE THAT TREE GOT HERE. MAKES ME QUESTION STUFF.

THE STORMS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF CONTROL WITH TERMINAL SHUT! HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN STUCK LIKE THIS, LOSING MEMORIES, FORGETTING OUR PURPOSE?

I MEAN, THE STORMS KIND OF MESS WITH ONE'S PERCEPTION OF TIME SO...I REALLY DON'T--

YOU MADE ME BELIEVE ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT "THE SEED OF PAIN" AND "SPOOKY DOORS," AND FOR WHAT?!

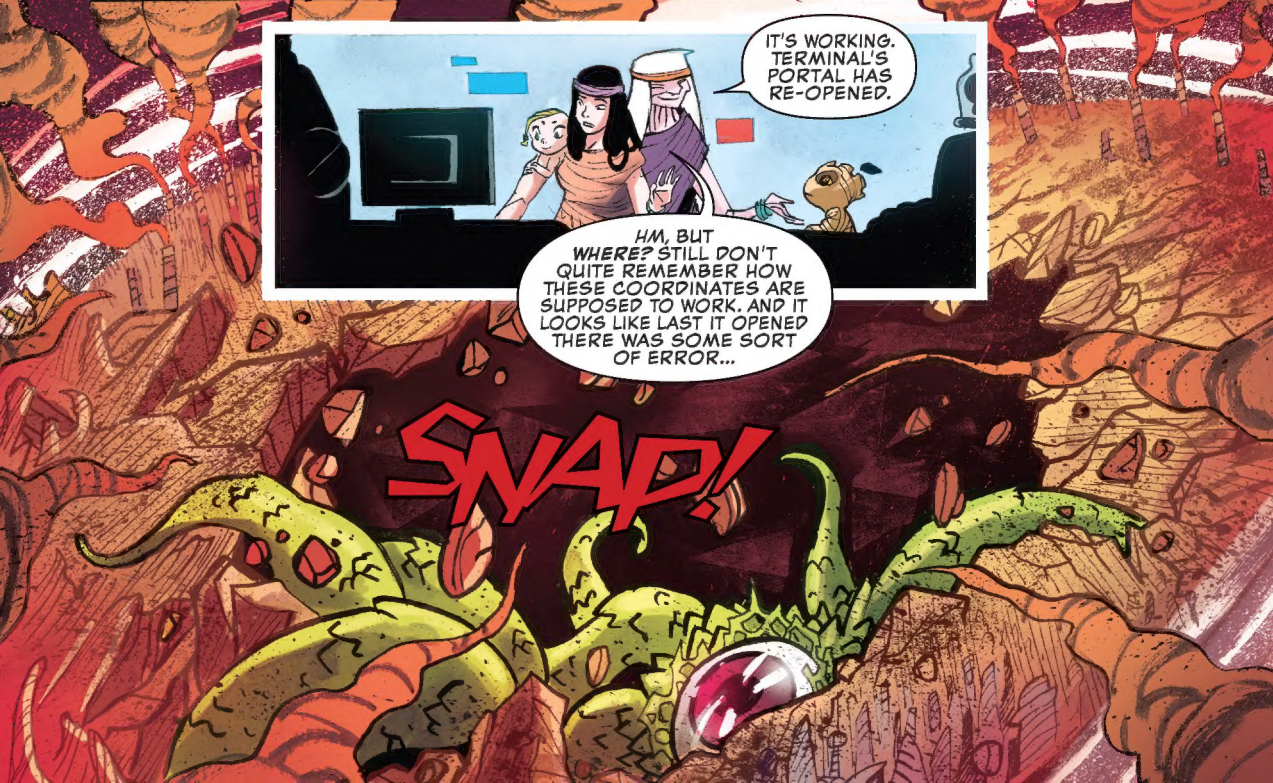


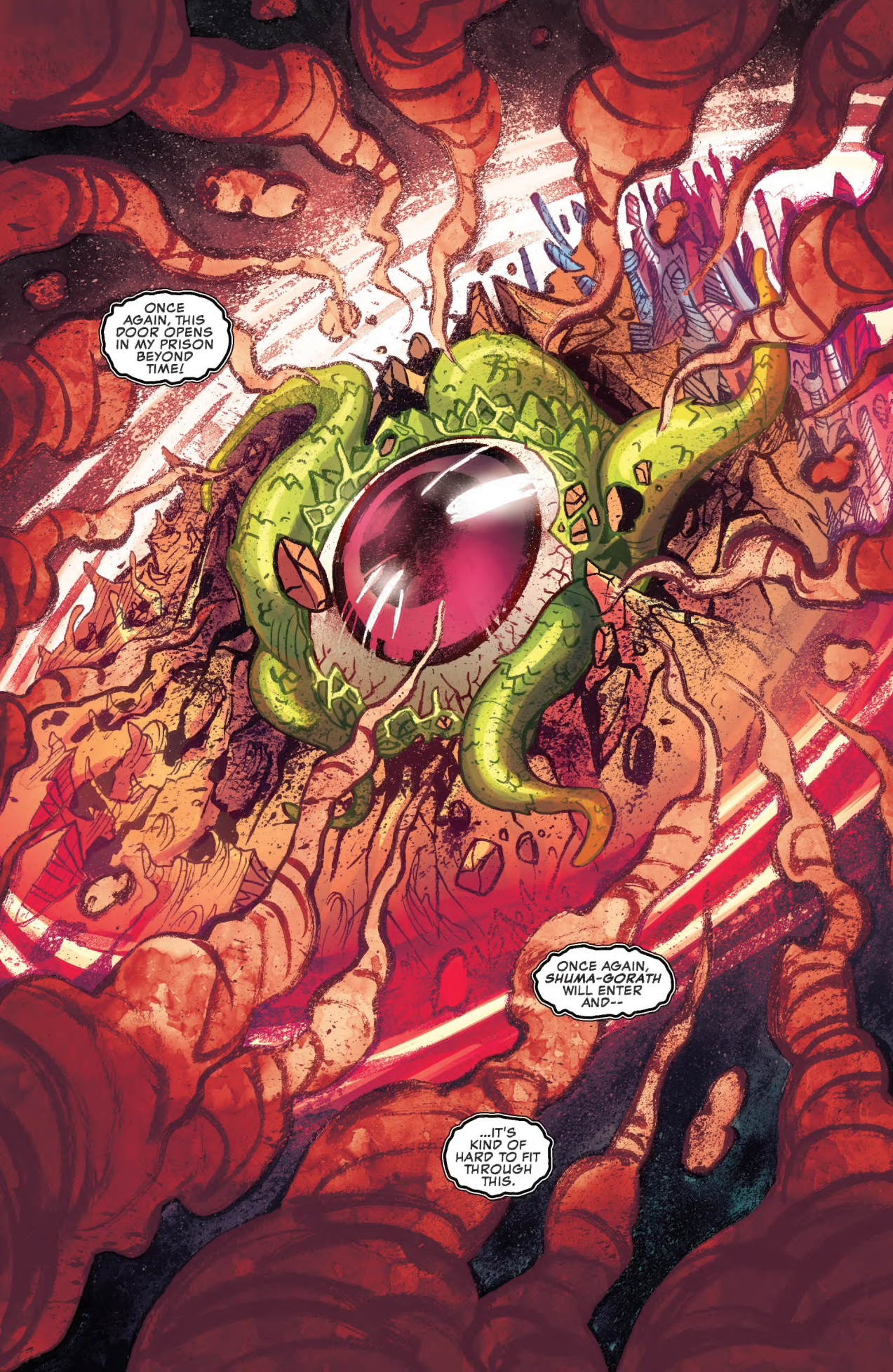
IT'S WORKING. TERMINAL'S PORTAL HAS RE-OPENED.

HM, BUT WHERE? STILL DON'T QUITE REMEMBER HOW THESE COORDINATES ARE SUPPOSED TO WORK, AND IT LOOKS LIKE LAST IT OPENED THERE WAS SOME SORT OF ERROR...



SNAP!





ONCE
AGAIN, THIS
DOOR OPENS
IN MY PRISON
BEYOND
TIME!

ONCE AGAIN,
SHUMA-GORATH
WILL ENTER
AND--

...IT'S
KIND OF
HARD TO FIT
THROUGH
THIS.



OH, I WAS VERY WRONG INDEED! THERE WAS SOMETHING BAD ON THE OTHER SIDE WHEN THE DOOR WAS SHUT!

HOW DO YOU FORGET SOMETHING LIKE THAT WAS REAL?! SHUT IT! SHUT THE DOOR! OR POINT THE PORTAL SOMEWHERE ELSE!



WE CAN'T SHUT THE DOOR WITH THAT CREATURE STUCK IN IT, AND HE'S DAMAGED A CRITICAL INTAKE VALVE. WE CAN'T OPEN ON A NEW LOCATION WITHOUT DRAWING IN THE RAW FUEL.



...
I KNOW HOW TO FIX THAT.

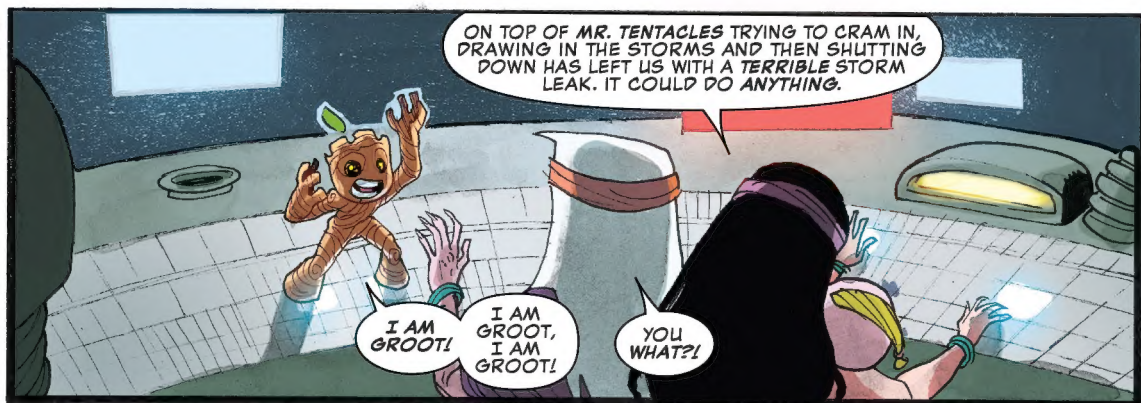
I'M NOT A FARMER. MY JOB IS TO FIX THAT.



YOU IDIOTS! YOU LET HIM OPEN THE DOOR.

I NEED TO GET TO THE SENTINEL PROJECTOR...

YES, YOU DO.

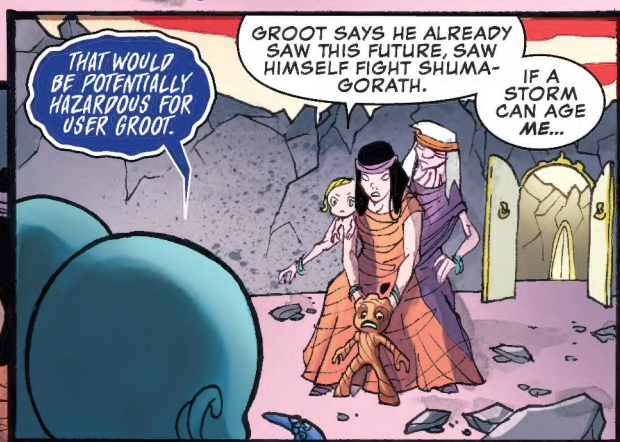


I AM GROOT!
I AM GROOT!
I AM GROOT!

I AM GROOT, I AM GROOT!

YOU WHAT?!

ON TOP OF MR. TENTACLES TRYING TO CRAM IN, DRAWING IN THE STORMS AND THEN SHUTTING DOWN HAS LEFT US WITH A TERRIBLE STORM LEAK. IT COULD DO ANYTHING.





...ACKNOWLEDGED.

I AM
GROOOOOOOT!



G-GROOT!



NNGGGHFFFF

ZAAAP



I

AM

GROOT.

BOOOOM!

"A STORM IS RAW, CHAOTIC,
PURE SPACE-TIME FORCE.
IT BROUGHT YOU HERE
FROM FAR AWAY, MAYBE
NOT JUST THE DISTANCE,
BUT TIME AS WELL."

I AM
GROOOOOOT...

I SEE
YOU.

SEED OF
SLAUGHTER.

GROOT.

I
KNOW
YOU.

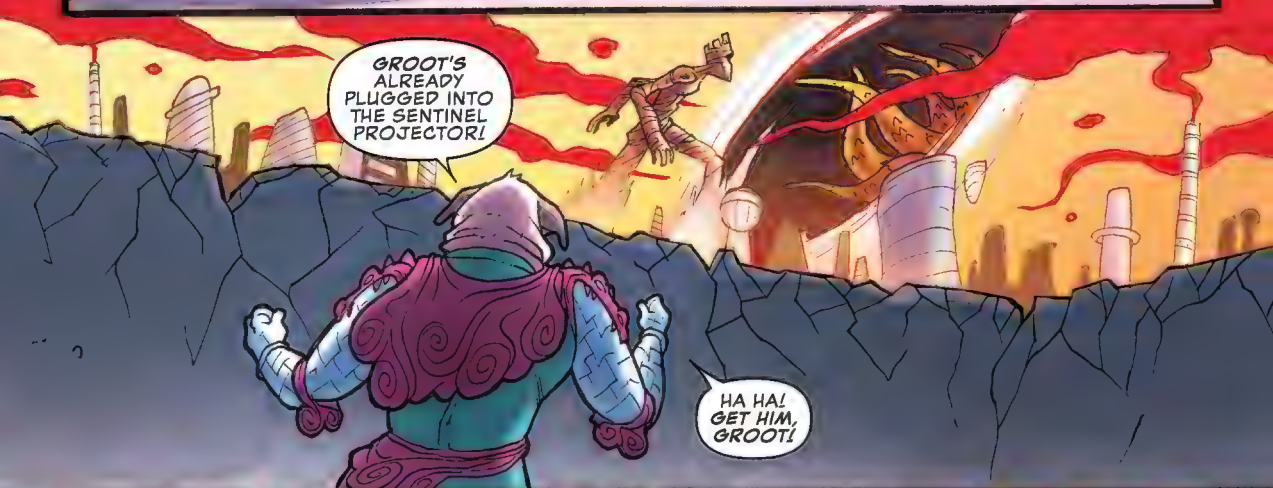
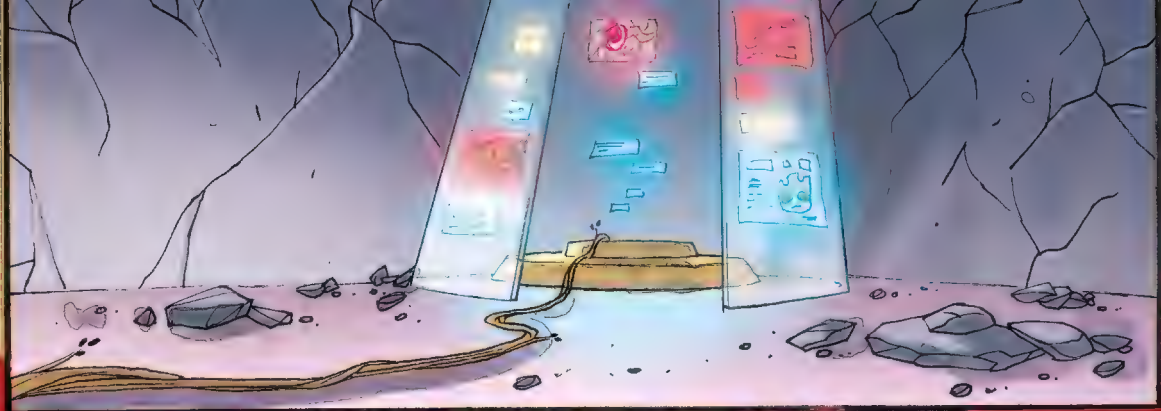
FREE
ME.

I AM
GROOT!

SPLUT

AGRGH!







THERE WAS AN ERROR.

IT WAS CONTAINED, AND NOW WE NEED TO MOVE ON.

NO! IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN! IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN!

AND THAT IS WHAT THE CARETAKER IS FOR.

CARETAKER COMMAND: PLACE THE ADMINISTRATOR IN HOLDING WHILE TERMINAL'S OPERATIONS ARE RESTORED.

ACKNOWLEDGED, CARETAKER.

NO! NO! I RULE THIS PLACE! THE ADMINISTRATOR RULES--

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO OPEN THE DOOR ANYWHERE ELSE! I DON'T HAVE COORDINATES! SHUMAGORATH COULD COME THROUGH AGAIN ANY SECOND, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT THAT STORM COULD DO!

THIS BODY KEPT A RECORD OF THE RANDOM STORM-MADE WORMHOLES IT WOULD BROADCAST TO.

HERE, PUT IN THESE, FROM WHEN GROOT FIRST CAME THROUGH.

...GROOT.

ARE THERE TWO GROOTS OUT THERE?

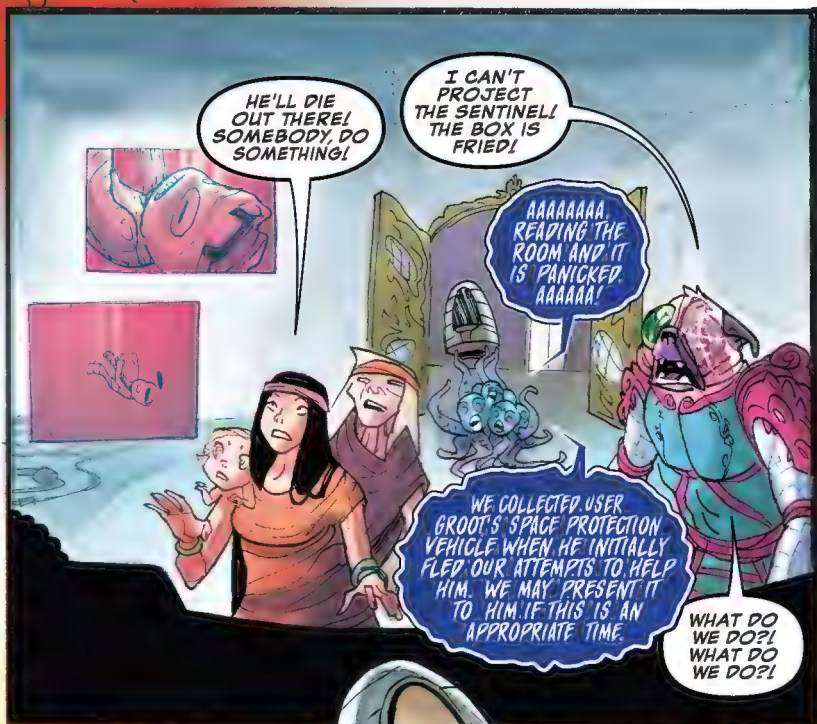
I THINK HE JUST PUT HIS YOUNGER SELF BACK INTO THE STORM WE HAD ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.

NOW WE JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GENTLY LOWER HIM SO HE CAN DISCONNECT FROM THE SENTINEL PROJECTOR.

THIS SHOULD ACTUALLY SEND HIM HOME!



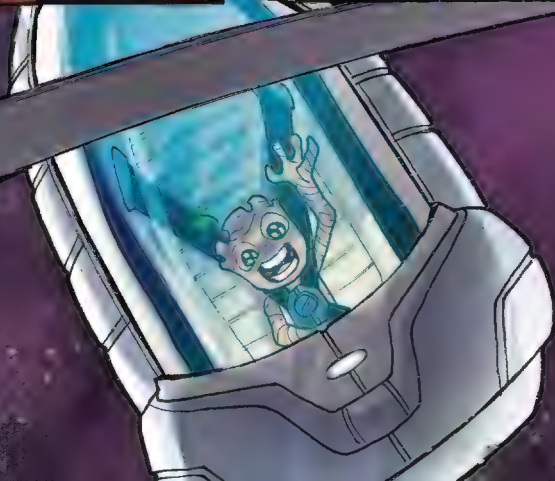
"GROOT GOT HIT BY ANOTHER STORM BOLT! HIS OLD SENTINEL PROJECTION IS FADING! IT WON'T HOLD HIM UP!"

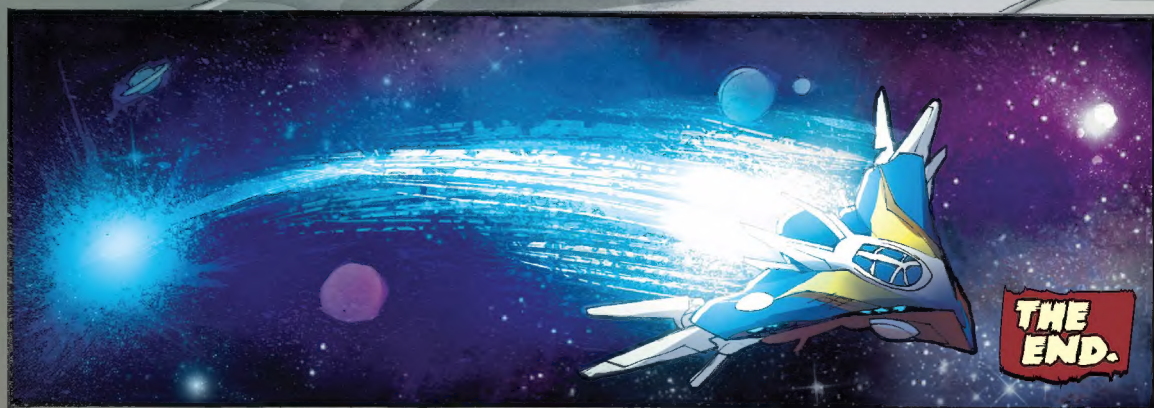
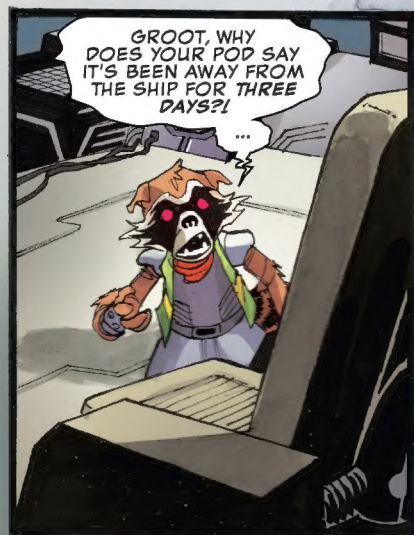
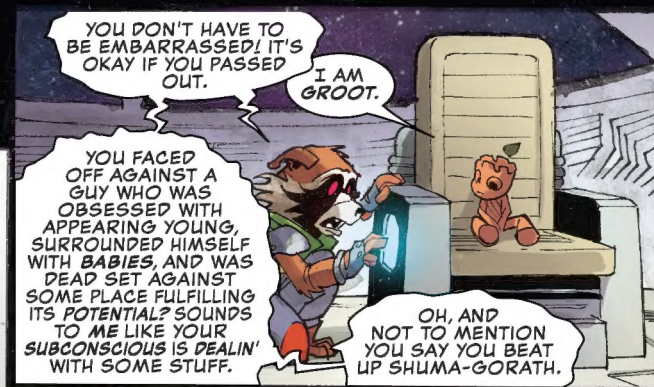
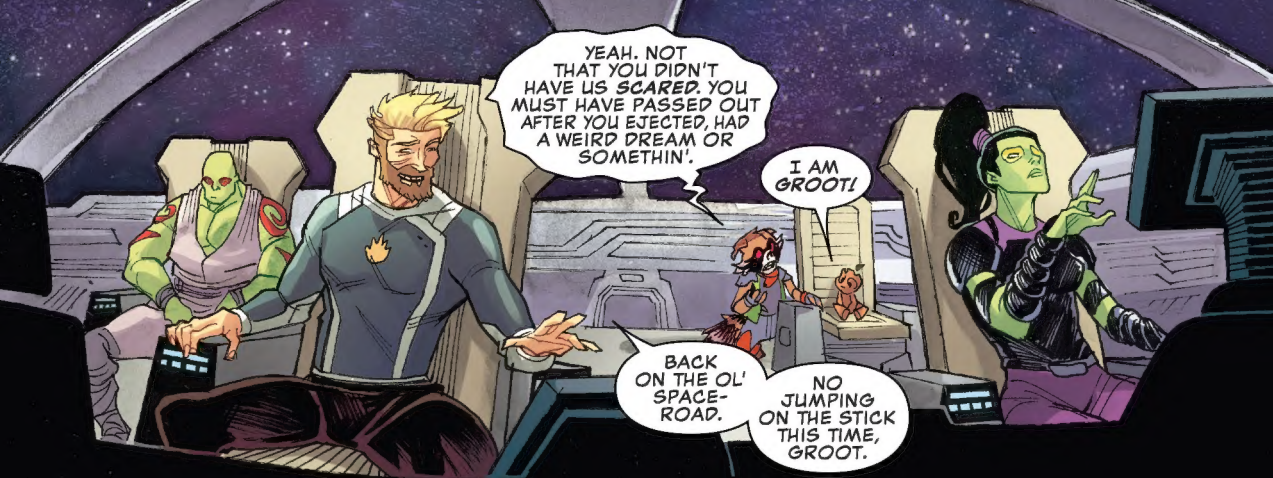


WE WILL BRING THE POD TO GROOT.



THE MILKY WAY GALAXY.





Hello, all you groovy GROOT readers! Groot-itor Kathleen here to welcome you to the end of this story, to thank you for joining us on the ride, and to answer a few of your letters. But first, here are some parting words from I AM GROOT's fantastic writer, Christopher Hastings:

He can only say "I am Groot."

And that's all he's been saying for a while. Plenty of creators have taken on this challenge, and made comics (and TV shows, and video games, and oh, yeah, a couple of movies) that made sense and were entertaining, despite what, at first glance, could be an invitation to boredom or confusion. Typically, Groot's language issues are handled by pairing him with a chatty gun-raccoon interpreter and letting the odd couple run off and have fun that way. Or lessening his speech load by putting him on a larger team. But this book isn't ROCKET RACCOON & GROOT. It isn't GROOT & THE GUARDIANS, or POWER PACK & GROOT, or WOLVERINE, SPIDER-MAN & GROOT (actually hold on, I want to pitch that last one).

This is I AM GROOT, which looked to me like a DEMAND that Groot be separated from the usual comfortable characters that help make him work. Take him out of the entire galaxy, universe, and DIMENSION that makes him comfortable while we're at it.

Ten to fifteen-ish years ago, I was in art school and had to create a comic adaptation of some other work to the theme "The Child in Exile." "Oh-ho!" I thought. "You know what might be interesting there? All of these video games I like so much where a kid is thrust from their home on some wild adventure. These games where for some reason, that kid DOESN'T TALK." *Earthbound*, or *The Legend of Zelda*, specifically *Wind Waker* and *Majora's Mask*. Dreamy worlds where the protagonist might not even grunt, and strange characters do all the chatting, each illustrating some piece of the hero's inner life. Aw yeah! That would be FUN. Christopher, you've managed to trick teachers into letting you play video games for research--again! (I was previously so crafty in high school.)

But then it turned out we were just given three real-life stories to choose from, so I did a comic about the bubble boy. Whatever.

But those worlds of mystery and weirdos, ancient buildings that don't care if you don't know why they were even built, stories that MIGHT be a dream or MIGHT not, and children who are forced to face fears that should be beyond their station--that stuck with me. So when I was asked to write a story about a tree that used to be big but

is now a lost little baby, I started thinking again about what I really wanted to do with "The Child in Exile."

I hope you enjoyed it.

I am Groot.

Christopher

P.S.: And of course I have to thank my fabulous editors, Jordan, Darren, and Kathleen, who firmly made sure that "dreamy" didn't turn into "insane nonsense we can't expect people to read." Thanks to our incredible artists, Flaviano, Marcio and Joe for doing the heavy lifting. It's one thing to write "Groot reacts." And as you can see from the book you just finished, it's a whole other thing to make that come to life.

Greetings!

First off...Baby Groot is adorable! I enjoyed the first issue and how it shines a light on baby Groot's innocent little mishaps that the group can't help but smile at. Awesome job. I'm looking forward to the next one!

Trayton H.

We appreciate your writing in, Trayton! I hope you found the rest of the issues as fun as the first, even as the stakes got higher. Part of what we wanted to do with this story was to show a journey from innocence to experience, and I think the team has done a great job balancing that goal with the equally important one of keeping little Groot cute as heck.

The first time I stepped into a comic shop, the last book I expected to be interested in was one about a talking tree. I hadn't even seen the first Guardians movie yet, but something about the cover art of GROOT #1, limbs twisting among the stars as a godlike tree gazed upon a toy-like planet system, pulled me in. Two years and not enough Groot merchandise later, I can't put the right words together to describe exactly how much joy he brings me. I plan on having that same issue's cover art as a half-sleeve tattoo, to celebrate the impact comics as a whole have had on my life (and Groot would probably think it's really cool, which is what really matters). I'm over the moon about I AM GROOT being a thing now and I can't wait to keep telling people that yes, the talking tree will always be my favorite.

Ashley Perez

Thanks, Ashley! That GROOT series by Jeff Loveness and Brian Kesinger was coming out when I started here at Marvel and I remember being similarly charmed by it. (If you guys like this story, you should check that one out, too!) I'm glad to hear that I AM GROOT is scratching the itch for you! If you're looking for another half-sleeve for your other arm, you could do worse than Flaviano and Marcio Menyz's Shuma-Gorath from this issue? Riiight?

Whoa! I loved it! The art is Grootiful (get it?), the writing is on point, will be collecting again! The design and level the comic reached blew me away, and to fill that hole in my heart the movie left, it did a mighty good job! Excelsior! Keep it up!

Samuel, 12
England

Samuel! Please accept our Grootitude for all your compliments, and for your pun. It was the stuff of Grootness.

One last time, thanks to those of you who wrote in, and to everyone out there who read I AM GROOT and recommended it to others! If you have more friends who'd like to read about Groot's adventures in Terminal, the paperback collecting all five issues will be available at the end of November!

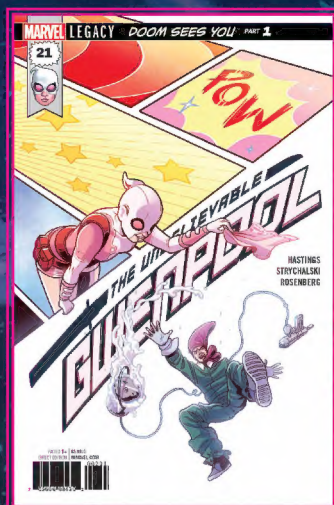
If you liked Christopher Hastings' work here (and who wouldn't?!), check him out on THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL!

If you want to find out if Groot will ever get big again (or if you want to know how he got stuck small in the first place), the answer is in the absolutely brilliant ALL-NEW GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY by Gerry Duggan and Aaron Kuder. Issues #11 and #12 are on sale next month, with guest artists Roland Boschi and Rod Reis.

We're glad to have you all in this corner of the Marvel Universe. Make like a tree branch and stick around.

See you soon!
Kathleen

ON SALE THIS OCTOBER!



THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #21



ALL-NEW GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #11



ALL-NEW GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #12



AN  ROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP